(d) and (e) During exploitation of 200 Light Bullet Proof Vehicles procured in July 2005, some defects were reported. A new engine is being trial evaluated. Also, a few minor defects as reproted by the Eastern Command in respect on 9 vehicles procured in February 2007, are being addressed by the Original Equipment Manufacturer.

Report of External Review Committee of DRDO

3131. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Review Committee of the DRDO has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government has studied those recommendations;

(d) if so, what action his Ministry has taken on those recommendations;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Committee recommended for private sector participation in Defence research;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any recommendations have been made with regard to administrative, financial and technological aspects of DRDO; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (h) Yes, Sir. The External Review Committee of DRDO constituted by the Government to suggest measure for improving the functioning of DRDO *inter alia* Ministry of Defence, and Services has submitted its report to the Government of 5th March, 2008. It is under study of the Government.

Purchase of bullet proof vehicles

3132. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bullet proof vehicles were puchased in July, 2005 and February, 2007 from a private firm ignoring the cheaper offer from Ordnance Factory, Medak:

(b) whether the same were found defective;

(c) whether any enquiry is being conducted to find out how Request for Proposals (RFPs) are being issued to private firms without asserting the availability within the Ordnance factories; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A contract for procurement of quantity 200 bullet proof vehicles was signed in July, 2005.

Separately, quantity 9 bullet proof vehicles were procured in February, 2007. During price negotiation for these 9 vehicles, there was an indication by Ordnance Factory (OF), Medak (as per inputs received by the Integrated Financial Adviser) for supply of the vehicles at a lower price. As the requirement was urgent and Ordance Factory, Medak had indicated

a time-frame of six months for offering a pilot sample only, placing an order on Ordnance Factory, Medak was not considered by the competent authority.

(b) During exploitation of 200 Light Bullet Proof Vehicles procured in July, 2005, some defects were reported, for which a new engine is being trial evaluated. Also, a few minor defects as reported by the Eastern Command in respect of the 9 vehicles procured in February, 2007, are being addressed by the Original Equipment Manufacturer.

(c) and (d) The question of procurement of an item through indigenous or global sources or through manufacturing by the Ordnance Factory Board, keeping in view the technological capability available in the country and the operational urgency, is processed in terms of the Defence Procurement Procedure and other relevant provisions of procurement. Based on the decision taken at the appropriate forum as laid down therein, the Requests for Proposals are issued accordingly.

Inducting of Brahmos

3133. DR. K: MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any progress in inducting Supersonic Brahmos into our regular fighting force;

(b) what is the stage of Russia agreeing to hire out nuclear powered Akula submarine for training purpose; and

(c) in case the above did not materialize, what is the way-out in the process?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Brahmos Supersonic cruise missile has gone through a series of successive successful flight trials from ship and road mobile launchers with integrated user configuration for Navy and Army. The Brahmos system has been accepted and being produced. The induction process has already commenced for Navy and Army.

(b) and (c) Information can not be divulged in the interest of National Security.

Outsourcing of services/trades in armed forces

3134. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has approved outsourcing of services/trades in Army, Navy and Air Force due to deficiency in civilian manpower and the adverse effect of the same on the functioning in lower formation;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(C) the details of such services/trades and manpower employed in such outsourced services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The issue of deficiency in civilian manpower in the three services and the adverse effect of the same on the functioning in lower formations and outsourcing of services has been examined. It has been clarified to the three Services Headquarters that provisions for outsourcing of Services already exist in